

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION

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Walk description originally prepared by:-	Colin and Brenda Read
Last Updated	22th May 2024
Title of Walk	Creu del Cardinal & Monestir de la Murta
Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)	Alzira. Large car park for 'Partage natural municipal de la Murta'. Beside picnic area & near entrance to Natural park.
Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km	8
Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m	493
Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops	3hr 5hr
Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)	MS/C/Scr
Grid reference of start point (if known)	Lat: 39.13332, Long: -0.37303
Directions to Start	Leave AP 7 at junction 59 towards Favara. At roundabout turn R onto N332. In centre of Favara turn R onto CV-510. Go straight on for 11km to roundabout just before reaching Alzira. Turn L onto Cami, signed to 'Monestir de la Murta' continue directly to car park.
Short walk description	Part of the 'Ruta Botanica' leads over a col, then to the summit of 'Creu del Cardenal'. Descending through the historic site of 'Monestir de Santa Maria de la Murta' via an aqueduct, ermitas & a nevara. Natural woodland, good scenery & wide ranging views. Though relatively short this rugged route is rewarding. Some steep sections with scramble'y rock steps, both up and down. The scrambling is not difficult or exposed.
Full Walk Description	Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far
From the car park walk (SE) towards the furthest uphill corner of the picnic area, to reach the start of a track with an information board beside it (the gps track starts here).	130m, 2min
Follow the track towards the 'Monestir Nostra Senyora de la Murta' to reach a gate at a junction. Here there are more detailed walk information boards.	
Continue straight ahead past a building with 'La Murta' emblazoned upon it. In about	

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30 metres turn R and go up a track signposted as SL-CV81 'Senda Botanica Per L'Ombria' (occasional G/W marks). Follow the track, which soon passes a 'Forn de Calc' (Lime Kiln) on your right. Continue through pleasant woodland, with occasional views of the peaks across the valley and the Monastery below. Eventually the track reduces to a path and becomes rather rocky, before descending to reach a junction at a signpost.	1.9km, 38min
Turn R uphill, signed to 'Creu del Cardenal' (Y/W marks). At a junction with a path on the right ignore it and keep L. Ignore a second path on the R, then ignore a path on the L going uphill. Keep following the Y/W marks. At the next junction (Y/W cross ahead) turn L up scramble'y rock steps and continue to a rocky platform on the crest of the ridge. Here there are views across to the Creu del Cardenal and Cavall Bernat to its left.	2.6km, 1hr 03min
Continue ahead at first descending. Follow the Y/W markers ignoring any other side paths. The path skirts around the head of the valley, then rises up to reach a signpost at a col on the ridge where the Cross on the summit of 'Creu del Cardenal' can be seen to the L (N).	3.3km, 1hr 21min
Follow the ridge, the path skirts to the L, then when below the Cross turn R and go over several scramble'y rock steps up to the summit.	3.5km, 1hr 28min
Return down the rock steps to the path. Turn R and continue along the rocky ridge ahead to reach a small post on the 'Pas de Sant Sofi'.	3.65km, 1hr 35min
Turn L along an eroded trench and in a short distance merge with two other paths which also descend from the ridge. Continue descending the rough path across the hillside, then go down zig zags (ignore all side paths) to reach a cross track at a signpost.	4.2km, 1hrs 45min
Turn R signed to 'Monestir de la Murta'. Follow the track down to a 'T' junction with a signpost.	5.3km, 2hrs 08min
Turn R signed to 'Font de la Murta PR-CV 334.1'. Go uphill for about 300 metres to reach a signpost at a path on the L, just where the track begins to level off.	5.6km, 2hrs 13min
Go steeply down the narrow path, signed to 'Monestir de la Murta' and 'Font de la Murta'. Soon there is a path at a signpost which cuts back L. Follow it for a few metres to where you can view the tunnel of the water source which was first discovered in 1582 by a peasant boy.	5.65km, 2hr 16min
Turn back and continue down beside the aqueduct. Pass to the L under an arch then almost immediately back R to reach the 'Ermita del Monte Calvano'. Here, inside the ruin, there is an ancient fresco to view.	5.9km, 2hr 26min
Continue down passing through a ruin, to reach two water depositos where the Monastery comes into view. Here on the right there is a signpost. Up above you on the R there are the ruins built around a cave of 'Ermita de los Grafitis'.	6.0km 2hrs 29min
From the signpost to reach the Ermita walk ahead keeping R for about 10 metres to find a rather vague unmarked path. This leads up then at the first opportunity bear R across rock ledges to the Ermita. Return the same way back down to the ponds.	6.2km, 2hrs 32min
Descend L or R to explore the the Monastery ruins, its walled garden and chapel (when open). Finally to the left side of the walled garden there is a small building	

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containing the 'L'Almassera' (Grinding wheel) beside which there is a signpost. (The distance and time given here is approximate and allows for a quick tour of the ruins and garden, though you may want to spend longer).

From the signpost turn L past the side of the ruin, signed to 'Punt D'Information 1.06km/20 SL-CV 82'. In a short distance cross a bridge to reach a broad cross track. Turn R and follow it for about 200 metres, to reach a steel cross beside the track. Here there is a signpost and path on the L. Follow the path to view the 'Nevera' (ice house).

Return to the main track turn L. Follow this track all the way, past the walk information boards, through the gates and back to the car park.

Spanish maps included within these descriptions are provided courtesy of the Spanish IGN and remain © Instituto Geográfico Nacional

6.7km, 2hrs 40min

7km, 2hrs 45min

8km, 2hrs 58min

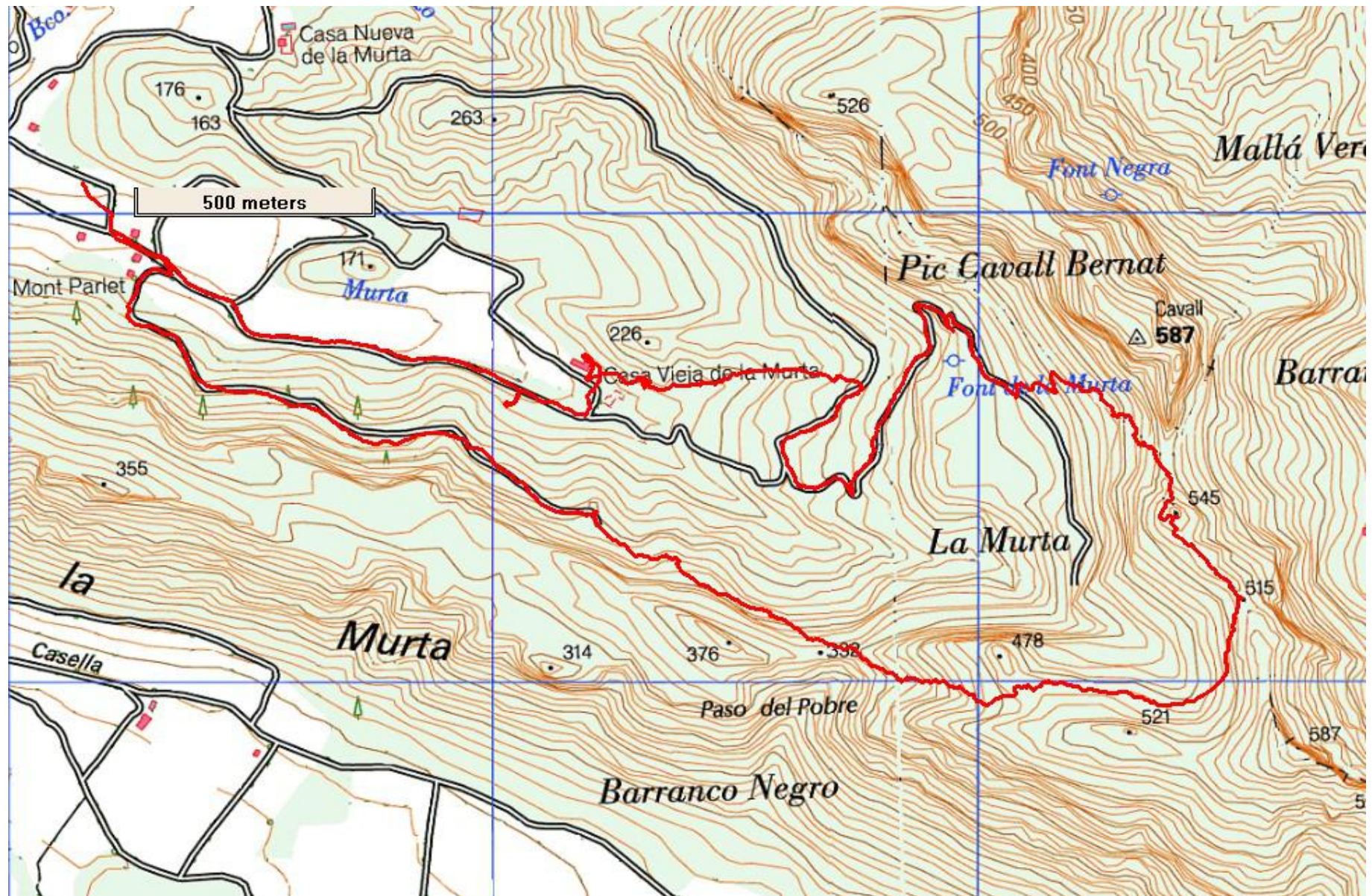
Walk Recommendations or restrictions

The many rock steps along the route and the path descending beside the aqueduct could be treacherous when wet.

see map below.....

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Route followed is outlined in Red



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